



## NEWS UPDATE - March 26, 2001

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### Quotes of the Day

**"Let's cut checks and send what comes to \$300 to every one of the almost 200 million taxpayers in America - Mom, Dad, kids, whoever."**

*Senator Joseph Lieberman on yesterday's Fox News Sunday, March 25, 2001*

**"Progressive Caucus Proposes American People's Dividend to Give Every Man, Woman and Child \$300 in Tax Relief."**

*Progressive Caucus News Release headline from February 8, 2001*

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## SUMMARIES

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### 1. GOP BUDGET CHAIR ANNOUNCES SUPPORT FOR CORE OF PROG TAX PLAN (news)

“Senate Budget Chairman Pete Domenici announced his support for a \$60 billion tax cut plan that would give every taxpayer roughly \$225 a person.”

Domenici Office, 3/22

<http://www.senate.gov/~domenici/press/releases/032201rebate.pdf>

### 2. SENATOR LIEBERMAN JUMPS ON BOARD PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS TAX PLAN, TOO!

“Sen. Joseph Lieberman, the 2000 Democratic vice presidential nominee, wants an immediate \$300 tax refund for every worker in America to stimulate the economy. The Connecticut senator says the quick tax cut, which he estimates would cost about \$60 billion, should be enacted without regard to any long-term tax reduction, such as those proposed by President Bush and by congressional Democrats.”

Associated Press, 3/26

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/national/AP-Lieberman-Taxes.html>

### 3. PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS TAX REBATE PLAN MIGHT BE JUST THE THING TO DERAIL ADMINISTRATION'S PLAN (news)

“With the tax debate focusing more on short-term stimulus, the size and scope of President Bush's long-term cuts are increasingly in doubt. Senate GOP leaders had hoped to pass Mr. Bush's income-tax rate cuts by tying them to a widely popular \$60 billion tax cut for 2001 intended to provide short-term economic stimulus. But efforts to combine the two measures have stalled over concerns about the size of Mr. Bush's overall \$1.6 trillion tax-cut package, which also includes such things as estate-tax and marriage-penalty overhauls. Critics have charged that the package leaves too little for debt reduction and that its benefits flow disproportionately to the wealthy.”

Wall Street Journal, Murray, 3/26

<http://interactive.wsj.com/articles/SB985558456435389460.htm>

### 4. BUSH RUNS THINGS LIKE A CORPORATION, FOR THE BENEFIT OF CORPORATIONS (editorial)

“George W. Bush promised corporate-style efficiency, but few could have imagined the relentless speed with which his administration has set about dismantling protections for the country's most vulnerable children, workers and natural assets. In just a handful of days last week, Bush raised the limits on carcinogenic arsenic in our drinking water, pulled the Cold War from the deep freeze, signaled he would open proposed wilderness areas to logging, then turned on poor and abused kids, proposing substantial cuts in aid for them. And that's only skimming the highlights.”

Atlanta Journal Constitution, Editorial Board, 3/26

[http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/epaper/editions/today/opinion\\_a3ebbe7b237360a000c8.html](http://www.accessatlanta.com/partners/ajc/epaper/editions/today/opinion_a3ebbe7b237360a000c8.html)

### 5. ADMINISTRATION TAKES MASK OFF OF 'COMPASSION' AND SHOWS WHAT IT'S REALLY MADE OF (editorial)

“Is this what the electorate wanted? Did Americans really want a president who would smile in the faces of poor children even as he was scheming to cut their benefits? Did they want a man who would fight like crazy for enormous tax cuts for the wealthy while cutting funds for programs to help abused and neglected kids? Is that who George W. Bush turned out to be? Mr. Bush misled the public during his campaign. He eagerly donned the costume of the compassionate conservative and deliberately gave the impression that if elected he would lead a moderate administration that would govern, as much as possible, in a bipartisan manner. He said all the right things. He just didn't mean them.”

New York Times, Herbert, 3/26

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/03/26/opinion/26HERB.html>

### 6. ENERGY SECRETARY: LET'S DRILL IN ALASKA RIGHT NOW (news)

“The Bush administration will not go ``begging the OPEC countries or anybody else" to increase oil production as long as the United States has untapped reserves that could ease an energy pinch, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said Sunday. Making the case for oil drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Abraham said no one should be surprised that the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries recently chose to cut output to keep prices high.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/national/AP-Bush-Energy.html>

### 7. ADMINISTRATION DOES NEW VERSION OF EAGLES SONG: WELCOME TO THE CARTEL CALIFORNIA (editorial)

“Welcome to the Cartel California. Last week a report by the Independent System Operator, which runs California's power grid, made it more or less official: the electricity crisis in the Golden State is partly the result of market manipulation by power generators. The report alleges that generators overcharged the state's utilities, which distribute power to consumers, by more than \$6 billion over a 10-month period. The report is almost certain to be ignored by federal authorities. Whatever the reason, it is hard to imagine an administration less likely to be sympathetic to California's plight than the one currently in power.”

New York Times, Krugman, 3/25

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/03/25/opinion/25KRUG.html>

#### 8. INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY CRITICIZES ADMINISTRATION'S ENVIRO ACTS (news)

"European Union leaders urged the U.S. to change its mind about cutting carbon-dioxide emissions to fight global warming. The Bush administration has said it wouldn't back national controls on carbon-dioxide emissions even though the U.S. and other developed nations agreed to do so at a 1997 meeting in Kyoto, Japan. The 15 EU leaders Saturday ended a two-day summit here with a statement on "the necessity of efficient international action" to prevent a deterioration in global climate conditions."

Wall Street Journal, Winestock, 3/26

<http://interactive.wsj.com/articles/SB985557265236103248.htm>

#### 9. PENTAGON LISTS AREAS WHERE SPENDING SHOULD BE CUT (news)

"Pentagon officials have prepared a list of about 30 weapons programs that could be cut back or killed to produce savings of as much as \$3 billion annually over the next several years, defense officials said. The list, prepared at the request of Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, draws a bead on some of the Defense Department's largest programs, including fighter jets, an artillery system and the Navy's next-generation destroyer. The Office of Management and Budget prepared a similar list of programs that could be cut, which was forwarded to Mr. Rumsfeld, an administration official said."

Wall Street Journal, Jaffe, 3/26

<http://interactive.wsj.com/articles/SB985556964590845317.htm>

#### 10. GOVERNMENT NOT LIVING UP TO PROMISE TO SICK MINING WORKERS (news)

"A fund created by Congress in 1990 to compensate sick uranium miners has periodically run dry over the past 10 months, sparking embarrassment in Washington and outrage in the region where most of the mining for the Cold War's most precious ore took place. Instead of paying claims, the government is handing IOUs to some of these workers, many of whom are dying of incurable lung diseases caused by their exposure to high radiation levels underground.

The U.S. is breaking promises to these workers as they sit incapacitated, disheartened and dying."

Chicago Tribune, Graham, 3/23

<http://chicagotribune.com/news/printedition/article/0,2669,SAV-0103230156,FF.html>

#### 11. GOP PAYBACK TIME FOR UNION SUPPORT OF PROGRESSIVE AGENDA (news)

"Labor unions fought their hardest last fall to defeat George W. Bush, and in his two months in office he has taken many actions that union officials view as retaliation. In recent days, President Bush has signed legislation to repeal union-backed workplace safety rules and has intervened to stop a mechanics' strike at Northwest Airlines. He has issued an executive order ending the preference that unionized companies had in many federally financed building projects. And he has issued another order intended to make it harder for unions to use their members' dues for political activities. Union officials view those moves as punishment for their backing Al Gore and as part of a broader strategy to weaken organized labor on national issues in general and in politics in particular."

New York Times, Greenhouse, 3/25

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/03/25/politics/25LABO.html>

#### 12. PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS MEDS PLAN, NOT BREAUX-FRIST, IS THE ANSWER

"The 55-member Congressional Progressive Caucus has introduced the Medicare Extension of Drugs to Seniors plan, which would provide comprehensive prescription drug coverage to all seniors within the Medicare program. Under the MEDS proposal, seniors would pay only 20 percent out of pocket and never have to pay more than \$2,000 total for their medications. Those Members who are serious about ending the crisis over the high cost of prescription drugs in this country and want to see a comprehensive Medicare benefit for prescription drugs will support the MEDS legislation. Those Members who are primarily interested in raising more campaign dollars from the pharmaceutical industry and want to maintain the status quo will support the proposals of the President and Breaux and Frist."

<http://www.rollcall.com/pages/pb/00/2001/03/pb0326g.html>

#### 12. BIG BUSINESS THRILLED BY NEW TOP REGULATOR (news)

"For more than a decade, a Harvard professor named John D. Graham has raised money, eyebrows and hackles by arguing that in many cases the cost of environmental rules vastly exceeds the benefits. Dr. Graham, the founder and director of a Harvard center that receives most of its money from industry, has become a pivotal figure in the battles over environmental regulation by arguing a theme that is pleasing to his donors' ears. And now Dr. Graham is preparing to bring that view to the new administration. He is President Bush's nominee for a job that would make him a regulations czar. His nomination as administrator of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs has thrilled industry lobbyists."

New York Times, Jehl, 3/25

<http://www.nytimes.com/2001/03/25/politics/25RISK.html>

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